

CLAIMS

1. A rotary trimmer comprising:
 - a base;
 - 5 end retainers, the end retainers attached to the base;
 - a rail, the rail moveably supported by the end retainers; and
 - 10 a cutting assembly, the cutting assembly having switchable blades and means for switching the switchable blades.
- 10 2. The rotary trimmer of claim 1 further comprising a self-healing strip disposed in the base for receiving the switchable blade while cutting.
- 15 3. A switching mechanism for a rotary trimmer comprising:
 - a shaft;
 - 15 a cam driver, the cam driver being fixed on the shaft and having an extended boss;
 - 20 a cam, the cam being slidably supported on the shaft and having a sloped surface, the sloped surface operably connectable to the extended boss;
 - at least one blade, the blade being slidably supported on the shaft through an eccentric opening; and
 - 25 a spring, the spring being slidably supported on the shaft and urging the blade toward the cam.

4. The switching mechanism of claim 3 wherein the switching mechanism has a plurality of blades.
5. The switching mechanism of claim 3 wherein the shaft is cruciform and the eccentric opening is cruciform.
6. The switching mechanism of claim 5 wherein the switching mechanism has four blades.
- 10 7. The switching mechanism of claim 3 wherein the blade is selected from the group consisting of a straight edged blade, patterned edged blade, scalloped edged blade, pinking edged blade, wave edged blade, perforating edged blade, and zig-zag edged blade.
- 15 8. The switching mechanism of claim 3 further comprising:
 - a pusher, the pusher being slidably supported on the shaft;
 - and a clutch, the clutch being mateably connectable to the pusher.
- 20 9. The switching mechanism of claim 8 wherein the pusher has pusher ribs and the clutch has an engaging portion mateable with the pusher ribs.
- 25 10. The switching mechanism of claim 3 wherein the blade comprises a blade hub and a cutter rotatably disposed on the blade hub.

11. The switching mechanism of claim 3 wherein the sloped surface further comprises pits for receiving the extended boss.
- 5 12. A switching mechanism for a rotary trimmer comprising:
 - a shaft;
 - at least one blade, the blade being slidably supported on the shaft;
 - means for rotating the shaft; and
 - means for moving the blade into cutting position responsive to the shaft rotating means.
- 10 13. The switching mechanism of claim 12 wherein the switching mechanism further comprises a plurality of blades.
- 15 14. The switching mechanism of claim 12 wherein the means for moving the blade further comprises means for moving the blade axially and means for moving the blade eccentrically.
- 20 15. The switching mechanism of claim 13 wherein the means for moving the blade further comprises means for urging the blade toward the means for moving the blade axially.
- 25 16. The switching mechanism of claim 12 further comprising means for locking the blade in the cutting position.

17. The switching mechanism of claim 16 wherein the means for locking the blade in the cutting position further comprises means for locking the blade axially and means for locking the shaft radially.

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18. The switching mechanism of claim 12 wherein the blade further comprises means for cutting and means for supporting the cutting means on the shaft.

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19. The switching mechanism of claim 12 wherein the blade further comprises means for perforating and means for supporting the perforating means on the shaft.

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20. A switching mechanism for a rotary trimmer comprising:

- a shaft, the shaft being cruciform;
- a switch knob fixed on the shaft;
- a cam driver, the cam driver fixed in relation to the shaft and
- 5 having an extended boss;
- a cam, the cam slidably supported on the shaft and having a sloped surface, the sloped surface contacting the extended boss;
- a plurality of blades, the plurality of blades each having a cruciform eccentric opening, the plurality of blades being slidably supported on the shaft through the cruciform eccentric openings;
- 10 a pusher, the pusher having a cruciform central opening, being slidably supported on the shaft through the cruciform central opening, and having a plurality of pusher ribs;
- a spring, the spring slidably supported on the shaft, the spring
- 15 urging the pusher and plurality of blades toward the cam;
- a push knob; and
- a clutch responsive to the push knob, the clutch having an engaging portion mateable with the plurality of pusher ribs.